

FURTHER AUSTRALIAN LOCALITY DATA FOR *CTENOLEPISMA ROTHSCILDI* SILVESTRI (ZYGENTOMA: LEPISMATIDAE)

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Abstract

Further locality records for *Ctenolepisma rothschildi* Silvestri are given, confirming its presence in Australia since at least 1960.

Introduction

Smith (2012) reported the presence of this semi-cosmopolitan silverfish species at Longreach in Queensland and used that material to redescribe the species according to current criteria. Although not previously reported in the literature, its presence at a relatively remote inland town suggested it had been in Australia for some time.

Recently, one of us (GS) became aware of older material in the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), which had been identified by the other (JI) as *Ctenolepisma rothschildi* Silvestri. Contact was established and JI provided details of this and other material of *C. rothschildi* examined from the Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (NTM) and the Entomology Department of the University of Queensland (EUQ), which confirms the species' presence in Australia since at least 1960. This short note records the material determined by JI from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. EUQ material is now housed in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

New records

Family Lepismatidae Latreille

Ctenolepisma rothschildi Silvestri, 1907

Material examined. QUEENSLAND: 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂, Ingham Res. Station, 13.iv.1960, K.L.S. Harley (EUQ); 1 ♀, Townsville Common, base of *A. laurensis* mound, 25.vii.1966, F.J. Gay (with two specimens of *Lepisma* sp. (*sensu lato*)) (ANIC). NORTHERN TERRITORY: 1 ♂, Darwin, August 1983, M. Malipatil (NTM); 1 ♀, Darwin, 30.iv.1985, M.B. Malipatil (NTM); 1 ♀, Darwin, August 1988, M.B. Malipatil (NTM); 1 ♀, Howard Springs, 2 km down Virginia Rd, 9.ix.1990, K. Coombes (NTM); 1 unsexed in many pieces, Radon Ck, WL PT A/3, 8.viii.1975 (NTM). WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂, 2 unsexed, Camballin, 5.iii.1968, J.A.L. Watson (ANIC).

Conclusion

These records confirm that *Ctenolepisma rothschildi* has been present in Australia since at least 1960 and has since been found at a wide range of locations across the tropical northern region. Many of these locations are hundreds of kilometres from any port and in lightly populated areas,

suggesting that the species has become established in northern Australia and is now widespread. Due to limited efforts to collect silverfish in much of Australia, no comment can be made as to its abundance.

Acknowledgments

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Reference

SMITH, G. 2012. *Ctenolepisma rothschildi* Silvestri (Zygentoma: Lepismatidae) in Australia. *Australian Entomologist* 39(1): 39-47.